

## **Move The Fight Forward is on its way!**

Like we have done in past years, MTFF is about equipping us as men to live life with the authority and purpose God the Father intends for us. Different from previous years, MTFF 2016 is intentionally meant to be a smaller group to allow us to connect as a community of men and focus on specific actions. Some time ago, I felt that God was showing me the idea of a chain-reaction.

How does a chain reaction impact my house? [As a team, read this out loud and use it as a discussion starter]

Let's consider together what a chain-reaction might look like. Brad was explaining that ignition happens when we help people align with the God given purposes in their lives, reconcile.

Our greatest loves are in our House! But all too often conflict and offense lives where generational blessings are supposed to be birthed. Earlier, we talked about Euclid axiom that "two things equal to the same thing are therefore equal to each other." We learned that "through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" Col 1:20

If we want our house to be peaceful, I am required to seek out what God says about the situations in my house that are creating conflict. Not demanding my outcome. But desiring more His. More than that, it is up to me to lead my family to the same understanding. To the same place and picture of what God says about the situation. This is what the Bible means when it says "husbands love your wives like God loves the church..." Not seeking my outcome. But God's, and then leading everyone else to that same place.

What would life be like if we and our wives shared the same definition of what a good marriage is? What would happen to the conflicts with our kids, if we both shared the same vision for the purposes of their life? Think about the most gnarly thing you face in your family. What would happen if all the people involved reconciled the issue to what God said about it? Would there be peace? Capacity? Joy? Would you keep the victory to yourselves, or would you eventually tell others...creating a chain-reaction.

I believe that in the process of reconciling ourselves and situations to what God says about it, God restores His authority to us. That thing that kicks our butts, now has lost its authority, and we have it back. More than that, God wants us to have that authority...to own it, so we can give it away to someone else who needs it for their life. Reconciling them to what God says about the biggest issues in their life. That's a chain-reaction.

What we want to create in this breakout session is a discussion among as many group members as we can, that helps us begin to understand that when we reconcile our house to what God purpose is, we restore peace where conflict once was and authority to where we were once out of control. Our family and house comes before any other ministry or purpose. Being a godly leader at home is part of our calling and God's purpose for us. It is holy, just like worship and prayer.

Have a discussion that helps the group begin to define common issues and situations in our houses. Let's ask God what His perspective is. Reconcile that picture to where we are today as individuals. Define actions that can close that gap. Imagine what it would be like to be reconciled to God, your wife, your kids. What would life be like if our home life was our first and best expression of God's purpose for us? Use this as a motivation to take actions immediately. Then record the chain-reaction in people's lives that is the result. Here are some starter questions...

- Are there both negative chain-reactions and positive ones?
- What do positive chain-reactions look like?
- When I win an argument, do I really win? Does it mean someone loses?
- Does God care if I lead my family to something specific, or is just being a good guy enough? Why does it matter to Him?

Action Ideas...

- Here's a list of common family issues:
  - Money/Spending
  - Getting out the door on time
  - Child Discipline
  - In-laws
  - Career and family
- How many of these do we identify with? What are some others?
- Are we willing to take one or 2 right now and write them down for ourselves?
  - Let's see if we can write down a common vision of what we think God's intention is for us in these situations.
  - What can we do to help our families reconcile with what God says about them and their situations, in a way that isn't controlling, but life giving?
    - If this is His perspective, are we there? How do I close the gap for myself and others?
      - If we close the gap, what's the chain-reaction? How does my ability to align with what God thinks about the situation impact someone else?
- Let's try to define together two or three specific actions or steps we can each take that results in reconciling people to their purpose? How might that impact someone else's life.

